

VETERANS JOURNAL



PUBLISHED BY
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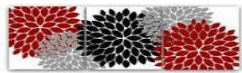
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Michael L. Close, VFW
Merle Pratt, DAV
Michael Kehoe, VVA
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Spring 2015 Issue

*Chip Tansill, Executive Director
John C. Warrix, Assistant Director*

The information in this journal is being provided to make the veteran community aware of some current events, activities and veteran's issues that are of mutual concern. From time to time, we will include some relevant information important enough to be repeated to insure that veterans and their families are aware of the full range of benefits and entitlements available to them.

SPRING



Springtime

Freshly planted garden

Blossoms in the trees

Insects flying through the air

Gatherings for teas.

Children playing hopscotch

Kite tails in the sky

Bunnies in the meadow

Bluebirds flying by.

Raindrops on the tulips

Clovers on the ground

Blankets drying in the wind

And Family all around.

**Congratulations Buckeyes
on a great season!**



“Franklin County Veterans Service Commission Welcomes Mr. Chip Tansill as New Director”



FCVSC (March 9, 2015) – On behalf of the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission we are pleased to announce that the Commissioners have selected Mr. Chip Tansill to join our agency beginning Monday, March 9, 2015 as our Executive Director. Mr. Tansill is a skilled and dedicated professional with 32 years of military experience and has a successful record of accomplishments in leadership, program management, workforce development, and administration. He is experienced in strategic planning, process management,

leader development, corporate governance and customer service. He is committed to high work ethics and to the attainment of corporate goals and objectives while nurturing a values-based culture and ensuring a positive climate based on mutual trust and respect. He looks forward to using his excellent problem-solving, financial management and decision-making skills that he developed throughout many challenging and high-tempo positions culminating as Chief of Staff for Ohio's Army National Guard with approximately 1800 full-time employees and 11,400 guardsmen and women.





“New Commissioner”



FCVSC (January 2015) – **Thomas “Tom” M. Eshelman** serves as a Member of the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission representing the American Legion (AL). He served in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1971 and the United States Army Reserves from 1977 to 1978, receiving the National Defense Service Medal. He is involved with veterans’ affairs and is currently a life member of American Legion (AL), Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). He has served on numerous Executive Board positions. Also, serving on the Memorial Day Parade Committee and the American Legion Riders. He actively volunteers at the Columbus VA Ambulatory Care Center and the Chillicothe Medical Center as well as several other civic activities. Commissioner Eshelman is retired. Commissioner Eshelman’s term will expire in 2020.



“Congratulations”



Carl W. Swisher
United States Navy Veteran
Vietnam War Era

FCVSC (January 2015) – Carl W. Swisher retired from the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission after serving from 2005 – 2015. As a chapter closes in your life and a new one starts for you may your years be filled with all the things you’re looking forward to! Thanks for your service to our Commission.



*With honesty and
dedication,
You pledged to protect and
serve.*

*Using courage and
compassion, you community
you did preserve.*

*May the years of your
retirement be rich,
rewarding, and kind. And
may there be no limit to the
happiness you find.*

~ Unknown ~



“Arrears of Pay”

What to Expect

Ryan, J. - RAO Seal Beach, CA (January 1, 2015) – “Arrears of pay” (AOP) won’t be a source of stress and financial hardship for your survivors if you tell them what to expect. This onetime payment made to your beneficiaries will include the prorated amount of your final month’s retired pay and any other money you are owed at the time of your death. Because your entitlement to retired pay ends on the date of your death, it’s important that your survivors promptly notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) of your death. Don’t expect a funeral director to do this. When your death is reported, DFAS will reclaim your final month’s retired pay and audit your account. DFAS will then compute the final amount owed to your estate and send it to the AOP beneficiary you specified in your retired pay account. A delay in reporting your death could result in an overpayment that would be collected from your bank, your estate, or one of your survivors, if that survivor receives any of your retired pay funds. Designating multiple beneficiaries for your AOP may delay payment as each beneficiary must be located and the complete necessary forms. To verify your AOP beneficiaries and update their contact information, log into your myPay account at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> or call DFAS at (800) 321-1080.





“Educator License Fees Eliminated for Veterans and Active Duty Service Members and their Spouses”

The Ohio Department of Education (January 2, 2015) – The Ohio Department of Education is eliminating fees for educator licenses to recognize the contribution of military families. Beginning Jan. 2, 2015, the fees for any initial Ohio educator license, permit or certificate – or for a renewal – will be waived for candidates who are veterans or current service members of all branches of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves. Spouses of active duty service members also may receive a license free of charge. For more information go to <http://education.ohio.gov>.

“Ohio rolls out veteran friendly employer registry”

CINCINNATI, OH (January 3, 2015) – Ohio has rolled out an online registry letting military veterans know which employers are looking to hire veterans. This registry, stemming from a 2014 law, went online Dec. 19 with about 300 employer names. More than a 150 indicated they have a preference policy for hiring, promotion, or retaining veterans, service members or their spouses. Others “self-reported” as military friendly – an

option that isn’t in the law but does allow employers to indicate other veteran support.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services must maintain the voluntary registry and provide a link on its OhioMeansJobs website for employers wanting to get on the list. For more information go to: <https://jobseeker.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/Veterans/VeteranInfo.aspx>.

“DoD and DOL Partner to Better Serve Wounded, Ill, and Injured Service Members”

Pearce, T. (January 15, 2014) – The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Labor (DOL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to foster and formalize collaboration between the two departments. Signed by Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and Keith Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Services, the MOU ensures that wounded, ill, and injured Service members and those enrolled in the Disability Evaluation System receive referrals to DOL American Job Centers and Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Specialists. This agreement marks a collaboration milestone and reaffirms both departments’ commitment to providing education and employment assistance to wounded, ill, and injured Service Members.

For more information on the Education and Employment

Initiative, visit: www.health.mil/warriorcare.

“Online Prescription Tracker Gives Veterans 24/7 Online Access to Status”

VA (February 2, 2015) – Veterans can now track the status of most of their prescriptions online, thanks to an innovative idea by a Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) employee. The new 24/7 service allows online tracking for most prescriptions mailed from the VA Mail Order Pharmacy.

More than 57,000 Veterans are currently using the service through My HealthVet, an online feature that allows Veterans to partner with their health care team. The number is expected to grow as VA starts to educate Veterans about the new feature. Later this month, the tracking feature will include images of the medication that dispensed. Over the next year, a secure messaging alert will be added so that Veterans know when a medication was placed in the mail.

“GWOT Medal Update”

The Department of Defense (February 9, 2015) – Effective immediately, service members are authorized to wear Service Stars on their Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medals (GWOT-EM) to represent deployments in support of approved GWOT operations. Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright signed a memorandum authorizing the new policy change retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001. Only on GWOT-



“GWOT Medal Update”

(Continued from Page 3)

EM is awarded for each approved operation. For example, a service member who was awarded the medal for an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment, and is subsequently authorized a second award for an Operation Inherent Resolve deployment would wear a single Service Star on the GWOT-EM to denote both awards. The five GWOT-EM approved operations are:

- ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) Sep. 11, 2001 – TBD
- IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) March 19, 2003 – Aug. 31, 2010
- NOMAD SHADOW (ONS) Nov. 5, 2007 – TBD
- NEW DAWN (OND) Sep. 1, 2010 – Dec. 31, 2011
- INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR) June 15, 2014 – TBD

The list of associated areas of eligibility for each approved GWOT-EM operation is available at the following website:

<http://prhome.defense.gov/RFM/MPP/OEPM/Functions>.

This policy change does not adjust criteria for award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal or

the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM). Full eligibility criteria for the GWOT-EM are contained in Department of Defense Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Service Awards – Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service Medals. Additionally, each military department will prescribe procedures for service members’ requests for award of GWOT-EM Service Stars. The Global War on Terrorism.

Expeditionary Medal is positioned above the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in precedence, and directly follows the Kosovo Campaign Medal. To view the Department of Defense memorandum refer to <http://www.defense.gov/news/Expeditionary-Medal-Service-Star-Authorization.pdf?source=GoveDelivery>.

“Walter Reed Transplant Program”

Shift Colors (Winter 2014) – The Organ Transplant Service at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda is the only United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) – certified transplant center in the Department of Defense health care system. Eligible patients include all TRICARE beneficiaries as well as Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) patients enrolled at the Washington D.C. VA Medical Center. UNOS encourages patients with end-stage organ disease to list in more than one region at the same time. This process allows eligible patients to be listed at a transplant center close to home in addition to

Walter Reed, increasing chances for organ availability.

Patients can be referred to Walter Reed from anywhere in the country or from overseas. The average wait time at Walter Reed for a kidney transplant is lower than the national average (<http://www.srtr.org/>). With more than 40 years of experience, Walter Reed provides organ transplant services to all beneficiaries with end-stage organ disease. In addition to kidney transplant services performed at the new Walter Reed facility, the facility collaborates with the University of Maryland in Baltimore for liver and pancreas transplant and Georgetown University for pediatric transplant services. The Organ Transplant Service can be reached at 1-301-295-4331 or at ArmyNavytransplant@mil.mil to assist with the evaluation and treatment of end-stage organ disease.

“Ohio Vet Employer Online Registry”

ODVS Newsletter (January 2015) – Ohio has rolled out an online registry at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/OMJResources/Military-Friendly-Employer-Registry.stm> letting military veterans know which employers are looking to hire veterans. The registry, stemming from a 2014 law, went online 19 DEC with about 300 employer names. More than 150 indicated they have a preference policy for hiring, promoting or retaining veterans, service members or their spouses or surviving spouses. Others “self-reported” as military friendly – an option



“Ohio Vet Employer Online Registry”

(Continued from Page 4)

that isn't in the law but does allow employers to indicate other veterans support. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services must maintain the voluntary registry and provide a link on its OhioMeansJobs website for employers wanting to get on the list (<https://jobseeker.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/Veterans/VeteranInfo.aspx>.)



An excerpt from the epilogue of Hal Moore's & Joe Galloway's book, "We Are Soldiers Still"

We think of our fallen comrades, forever young as we grow old, and of how they died before they had even begun to live.

We were all young then and had no real understanding then of all they would never know –

The joy of a good woman's love, of watching our children grow, of savoring all that is good and bad in a long life.

We who are fortunate enough to survive have tasted all those experiences and now we know, all that they gave up when they laid down their precious lives for us.

Far from fading in memory, the pain and sorrow only grow more acute.

We are the fortunate ones!

We survived when so many better men all around us gave up their precious lives so that we might live. We owe them a sacred obligation to use each day to its fullest potential, working to make this world a better place for our having lived and their having died.

We fell an obligation to give something back to our country and to our troops in a time when we are, again, at war and these young men and women will be fighting that war and other wars.

We owe that to this generation of warriors just as we owe it to our fallen comrades.

Each of us, in his own way, continues to serve our country because...

We Are Soldiers Still...



“Afghanistan/Iraqi Campaign Medals”

Military Times (February 19, 2015) – The Pentagon will extend the Afghanistan Campaign Medal for troops currently serving there, despite the official end of the 13- year war. Defense officials said 19 FEB that the current phase of the Afghanistan War, known as operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS), is now a qualifying operation for award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. The phase of the war known as Operation Enduring Freedom technically ended on Dec. 31, 2014. The new mission does not involve U.S. troops in direct combat operations and instead limits their mission to advising and assisting the Afghan forces and potentially some targeted counterterrorism missions. There are about 10,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The military

mission there is slated to end by December 2016. Service members should contact their military departments for additional information, defense officials said.

The qualifying Afghanistan Campaign Medal operations, campaign phases, and associated inclusive dates for each are as follows:

Operations:

- Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) Sept. 11, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2014
- Freedom's Sentinel Jan. 1, 2015 to present

Campaign Phases:

- Liberation of Afghanistan Sept. 11, 2001 to Nov. 30, 2001
- Consolidation I Dec. 1, 2001 to Sept. 20, 2006
- Consolidation II Oct. 1, 2006 to Nov. 30, 2009
- Consolidation III Dec. 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011
- Transition I July 2011 to Dec. 31, 2014
- Transition II Jan. 1, 2015 to Present.



“The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart...should swell into a mighty chorus of remembrance, gratitude and rededication on this solemn occasion.

~ Abraham Lincoln





*"The Last Casualty
of War is Innocence"*
by ALS 2/5/1996

*I felt the sun shining on my face
And I opened my eyes to see
That I was no longer in the pits of
hell
But as last home free.*

*I got up to walk and felt a pain
Streaming down my right leg
And in my mind flashed the picture
Of which now my strengths are fed.*

*I left behind a part of me
Which I cannot regain,
But I look forward to the future
With anxiety
And what I have to gain.*

*My world has been restructured
And I must adapt –
I will fight this war with courage
Until victory is in my grasp.*

*I felt the sun shining on my face
It was day – no longer night.
I left behind a part of me,
But,.....I still have life.*



"Troops to Trades Launces Veterans' Business Network"

MINNEAPOLIS (March 2, 2015) – Troops to Trades, a Nexstar Legacy Foundation program, announced the launch

of its Veterans' Business Network. This network provides veterans, reserve, and National Guard members with direct connections to plumbing, heating, cooling, and electrical (PHCE) service business looking to hire.

There are currently 136 businesses across the U.S., as well as two outside the country, that are part of the network. All participating businesses listed within the program agreed they are willing to help navigate the complexities of finding a job in the trades.

The PHCE service industry is facing a severe shortage of qualified technicians. With 60 percent of the current workforce leaving the industry and only 6 percent of high school students considering a career in the trades, there is a looming crisis.

Veterans, reserve, and National Guard members can access the program's business network by visiting

<http://bit.ly/TroopsToTradBN>.

Service industry businesses who wish to become a part of the Business Network can visit <http://bit.ly/TroopsToTrade> Employers to review the guidelines and submit their requests to be a part of the program.

Since the last publication~

"VA Expands Fry Scholarship to Surviving Spouses of Service members Who Died on Active Duty"

Washington D.C. (October 20, 2014) – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has expanded eligibility criteria to

include surviving spouses for the Fry Scholarship. The expanded criteria for the Fry Scholarship is the latest in a series of VA actions to implement provisions of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act").

Specifically, Section 701 of the Choice Act expands the Fry Scholarship to include the surviving spouses of Service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Prior to this expansion, only children of those who died in the line of duty were eligible for this benefit.

For more information go to www.benefits.va.gov/gibill or the VA call center (888-GIBILL-1).

"Peer support line helps veterans"

Overberg, M.E., *Deputy Chief, Army Retirement Services* (October 2014) – Since 2010, the Vets4Warriors Peer Support Line has provided service member s confidential, peer-to-peer support. The Peer Support Line was built on the concept[t that service members prefer to seek help from someone who has also served and understands their challenges. Vets4Warriors, which will soon change its name to the Military Connect Network, is staffed entirely by veterans.

Vets4Warriors is operated by Rutgers University through a contract with the Department of Defense Suicide Prevention Office. At Vets4Warriors, veterans provide support to current and retired military member and their families 24



“Peer support line helps veterans”

(Continued from Page 6)

hours a day through phone calls, email, or online chats. The service is confidential and caller information is not shared with the military or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The call center’s veterans are not licensed counselors. They provide information and referrals when needed, but also peer support and follow up for those with ongoing concerns. The center connects those in crisis with the Military Crisis Line.

Members of the United States military may call Vets4Warriors toll free at (855) 838-8255. Outside the U.S., service members may call the Global DSN Operator at DSN 312-560-1110 or commercial (719)567-1110. All service members may chat with Vets4Warriors at their website <http://www.vets4warriors.com> or send them and email at Info@vets4warriors.com.

“Gray Area Soldier’s retired pay application process change for the United States Army”

Crawley, V., *Chief, Reserve Retirement Pay, U.S. Army Human Resources Command* (October 1, 2014) – The United States Army Human Resources

Command (HRC) with the coordination of the United States Army Reserve Command, the National Guard Bureau and the Army Retirement Services Office discontinued mailing retirement applications to Gray Area Soldiers for their non-regular retirements at age 60 on October 1, 2014.

These soldiers will need to contact HRC to request retirement applications and confirm their current mailing addresses prior to their 60th birthdays. HRC recommends Gray Area Soldiers contact HRC 13 months before their expected retirements by calling (888) 276-9472 or by emailing askhrc.army@us.army.mil. HRC will also leverage current technologies to allow individuals to request applications on-line. For more information go to <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>.



*Sunset Cemetery
Columbus, Ohio*

Dignity Memorial “Four Final Life Lessons” *Nobody Told Veterans...Until Now*

By Deborah Grassman

Lesson Number Two

Heroes go into dark places and find light. You and your family have endured much darkness and you’ve borne much light as you’ve had to find your way back from war. If painful memories start surfacing don’t cover them

up. Instead, talk about them with other trustworthy people who can bear your pain with you. This might be a family member, friend, or spiritual advisor. But, it also could be a professional healthcare provider or volunteer. Trust the motion of your being; give the silenced memories a voice. If people want to express gratitude for your service to our country, consider accepting it. If you want to, you might even share some of your experiences with them. Your story will not only help you, it will help the listener. If tears come, let them. Tears are meant to be shared too.

GUILT: AN EMOTION THAT MIGHT SURFACE AS VETERANS PREPARE TO “MEET THEIR MAKER”

All of us have done things we regret. Hurting each other and ourselves is just part of the human condition. Combat veterans sometimes come to the end of their lives with unresolved grief or guilt related to military duty. Perhaps this is best captured by a poem entitled, *Atoning*, by Ron Mann displayed in the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago.

*Hoping and wishing
you can settle
this whole thing in your mind
about this war
resolving it within yourself
before the time of atonement
comes,
weeping and crying at the end of
your life.*

If you harmed or killed someone during your military assignment, you may or may not have already come to terms with what



“Four Final Life Lessons”

(Continued from Page 7)

happened. If the assault still triggers guilt, you might want to consider bringing it out in the open. Forgiveness can bring peace with a painful past. Although the past cannot be changed, the relationship to the past can. Forgiveness is the means to the end. Making peace with unpeaceful memories begins by acknowledging guilt without trying to gloss over it or pretend it away.

Guilt takes many forms: Some feel guilty about the killing they had to do; others feel guilty for not killing; Some non-combat veterans feel guilty because they don't feel that their sacrifice was enough; Military nurses and medics can also feel guilt about the life and death decisions they made; Survivor's guilt is common; Some Vietnam veterans struggle with forgiving the government for using and betraying them; Korean and Vietnam veterans might have to forgive the American public for ignoring or scorning them; and Soldiers may have to forgive the world for being unfair and for having cruelty and war in it.

If self-forgiveness seems like a lot to expect from yourself, it is; but it's also essential. To withhold forgiveness means to cut yourself off from a

compelling force deep in the soul that seeks it. If that forgiving force is denied, vitality and peace remain elusive. If you have been unable to achieve forgiveness, you might arrive at the end of your life filled with bitterness. Stockpiling transgressions of others (blame) or self (guilt) is the recipe for making bitterness. Bitterness is a poison that contaminates even the most innocent heart. It is not too late to make a different decision. If you find yourself bitter, you can decide to learn how to forgive your transgression or your transgressor.

Wanting to forgive is essential, often forgotten, element of forgiveness.

This Four Part Series will be continued in the next upcoming publications.

For more information about Dignity Memorial and the full lesson go to
DIGNITYMEMORIAL.COM



“Clay Hunt SAV Act”



H.R. 203 became public law on February 12, 2015. The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act will help reduce military and veteran suicides and improve access to quality mental health care.

“Combat Action Badge May Be Retroactive to Prior Conflicts...”

ODVS (January 2015) – The Department of Defense is studying the issue of making award of the Combat Action Badge retroactive to Dec. 7, 1941. That could open the door for thousands of Army soldiers who served in combat in World War II and later conflicts – but who did not qualify for other combat badges – to be recognized for their service under fire. Currently, the Combat Action Badge is awarded to Army soldiers who, after Sept. 18, 2001, performed duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay was authorized, who were personally present and actively engaged or were engaged by the enemy, and performed satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement. There will be more information to come this year.



Honor Flight is looking to fill seats in upcoming flights to Washington D.C.

If you have a WWII or Korean War Veteran who would like to participate (they have also take terminal patients from other conflicts). Go to
www.honorflightcolumbus.org



Useful Information ~

*** Ohio Veterans Homes Provide Great Value for Veterans in Need of Long-Term Care...**

Find out more at the following website:

http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_HOMES

*** VA maintains a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam and possible exposure to Agent Orange based on military records.**

For more information on the evolving list go to <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shipslist/list.asp>. Or

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures> to learn about military exposures and benefits.

*** Express Scripts, the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, will screen all ingredients in compound drug claims to ensure they are safe and effective, and covered by TRICARE Starting May 1, 2015.**

Find out more at the following website:

<http://tricare.mil/CompoundDrugs>.

*** "The Veterans Vision Project", created by photographer and college student Devin Mitchell, looks at the faces of returning veterans.**

Find out more at the following program at:

<http://veteranvisionproject.com/>

*** The Healing Heroes Book – Is an interactive book that helps children and families of wounded service members deal with the feelings, changes and challenges they face because of their loved one's injury.**

Find out more at the following website:

<http://www.wateringcanpress.com/html/healingheroesbook.html>

*** Operation Legal Help Has Moved: On January 5, 2015, OLHO moved to Capital University Law School.**

Find out more at the following website: www.OLHOH.org or call 1-877-759-6182

*** New App for the Exchange: "Exchange Extra" app available at App Store for Apple products or Google Play for Android devices.**

*** ARSGOCO – Amputee Recreational Support Group of Central Ohio.**

Find out more at the following program go to: www.arsgoco.org/ or 288-5105.

*** Veterans Employment Center (VEC) – is an online portal that combines elements of standard job boards and professional connection media to provide a single solution for meeting the needs of both veteran's job-seekers and employers seeking to hire veterans.**

Find out more at the following website:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>.

*** Veteran and Military Parents Stay Connected with Family.** Parenting for Service members and Veterans, an interactive, self-paced online course, guides

parents in interacting with their children in new ways and reinforces the good habits they already have. It is an anonymous service.

Find out more at the following website:

www.veterantraining.va.gov/apps/veteranparenting/index.html to start the training today.

*** ALS Patients to Get Adaptive Housing Grants - Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, are now considered medically eligible to receive the maximum adapted housing grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs.**

Find out more at the following website:

benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptivehousing.asp.

*** The American Legion's Veteran Employment Center – A new web program helping veterans find support, services, and opportunities seeking civilian jobs.**

Find out more at the following website:

<http://www.legion.org/careers>.

*** The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hawaii has a new name – Now called the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which is a merger of JPAC, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office in Washington D.C., and some functions of the Air Force's Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory in Ohio. (January 2015)**





*** WWII - The Devil's Brigade –**

The surviving members of a legendary force of Canadian and U.S. soldiers were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. They were officially known as the First Special Service Force, formed in 1942. (February 2015)

*** We Honor Veterans –** The VA, the National Hospice, and Palliative Care Organization are collaborating on a project call We Honor Veterans, to help civilian hospice workers ask the right questions.

Find out more at the following program go to:
www.wehonorveterans.org.

*** The Veterans Voices Project –** Wright State University's Veteran and Military Center is collaborating with public radio station WYSO to create a series of stories on local veterans' experiences transition to civilian life called "Veterans Voices". The stories will air on WYSO 91.3FM during "Morning Edition" at 6:45 and 8:45 a.m. This started on December 10, 2014 and will go on through May 2015.

*** Standing Together: Ohio Veterans Oral History Project –** The Ohio Humanities Council (OHC), in partnership with the Ohio National Guard (ONG), launched a campaign on 1 December 2014 to capture and preserve the contributions of Ohio Service members who have served during the War on Terrorism (WOT). Participation

is voluntary and interviews will be conducted across the state until 1 April 2015.

Find out more about the project go to:
<http://www.ong.ohio.gov/stories/2014/Sept/091514-WOT.html>

*** Educator License Fees Eliminated for Veterans and Active Duty Service Member and their Spouses –** The Ohio Department of Education started eliminating fees for educator licenses to recognize the contribution of military families beginning on January 2, 2015.

Find out more at the following website:
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Educator-Licensure>.

*** Birdies for the Brave –** Free/Discounted PGA Tournament Tickets.

Find out more at the following website:
<https://birdiesforthebrave.sheerid.com> or
<https://www.facebook.com/birdiesforthebrave>.

*** Vet Spiritual Needs Resource –** HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN), a national nonprofit organization, introduced a national service on 3 Feb 2015 that provides spiritual and emotional support to veterans, active service members, and their families, including the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with professional chaplains via phone, email, and video call.

Find out more at the following website:
<http://chaplaincareforveterans.org>.

*** USO of Central and Southern Ohio –** Was awarded the Ohio Friend of 4-H on March 14, 2015.

*** New WWII book details story of "First SEALS" –** "First SEALS: The Untold Story of the Forging of America's Most Elite Unit by Patrick K. O'Donnell



*** OEF/OIF Vets Needed for Army Study –** Army researchers are looking for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with breathing difficulties such as shortness of breath or wheezing to study how deployments may affect lung health. Service members or retirees wanting to participate can call the STAMPEDE staff at San Antonio Military Medical Center at 210-916-3976 and at Walter Reed at 301-295-4191 or by email via usarmy.ibsa.medcom-bamc.list.bamc-stamped@mail.mil.

*** Army Retired Lapel Button –** The new U.S. Army Retired Lapel Button is now available through the Exchange stores and website at
<https://www.shopmyexchange.com>.



*** The Military Caregiver Support Initiative –** Provides military caregivers with online tools, resources, and support in their unique roles caring for wounded, ill, and injured Service members. Find out more at the following website: WarriorCare.mil or Health.mil/WarriorCare.





*** Services Dogs for Veterans –**

The nonprofit Battle Buddy Foundation based in Cincinnati, Ohio provides service dogs to veterans. Find out more at the following website:

www.tbbf.org

*** TRICARE and Air Evacs –** If you are planning to live or travel overseas, you may wish to consider other options for coverage of air transport for circumstances not covered by TRICARE. Otherwise you have to pay up-front and then file a claim for reimbursement. Find out more at the following website:

<http://www.tricare-overseas.com/>

*** Anger Management–** If you or your spouse has a problem with anger check out VA's online

AIMS course at

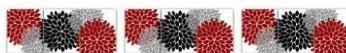
<http://www.veterantraining.va.gov/aims/>. This course is based

on training that was developed specifically for Veterans and has been successfully used by Veterans and Service Members around the world. It offers a wide range of practical skills and tools to manage your anger and develop self-control over your thoughts and actions.

**"ONLY THE DEAD
HAVE
SEEN THE END OF
WAR"
~PLATO**

Tax Resources

- ~ IRS.gov (Downloadable Publications)
- ~ IRS.gov/Individuals/Military
- ~ Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide
- ~ IRS YouTube Video "Military Tax Tips"
- ~ MilitaryOneSource.mil with H&R Block
- ~ Military Veterans Resource Center, appointment only
- ~ MyFreeTaxes.com
- ~ TurboTax Freedom and Military Editions
- ~ Taxslayer.com
- ~ Taxtimecentralohio.org or call 2-1-1 for locations and appointments
- ~ Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, ohioscpa.com (Currently serving or deployed outside the U.S.)
- ~ IRS.gov/Individuals/Military
- ~ www.tax.ohio.gov.



*"A Bend in the road is not
the end of the road...
unless you don't make the turn."
~ Anonymous~*



Upcoming Events....

March

*** Heroes Tribute Hunt, Saturday, March 21, 2015.** A day filled with family oriented outdoor events and a guided hunt for disabled veterans.

Location: Elsaan Outfitting

26100 Twp. Rd. 52

Walhonding, Ohio 43843

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information go to <http://www.elsaanoutfitting.com>

*** Power Breath Meditation Workshop March 26 – 31, 2015.** A mind-body resilience building program for returning veterans. Space is limited, for more

information go to Project Welcome Home Troops at www.pwht.org.

*** Veteran W5K, March 28th, 2015 in Dublin, Ohio.** Go to fallen15.org to registrar.

*** Patriot Project 8 Mile Road March 28, 2015.** Go to <http://www.ovmp.org/calendar.htm> for more information on the event.

*** 2nd Annual Vietnam Commemoration at Camp Perry Clubhouse, March 28, 2015.** For more information contact the Ottawa County Veterans Service Office at 419-898-2089.

APRIL

*** 1st Annual PTSK Awareness 5K Obstacle Run at Remembrance Park in Columbus Ohio, April 4, 2015.** To registrar go to <http://www.racepenquin.com/event/rundownth edemons/>.

*** 1 Day for the K.I.A. Run at the Ohio State University on Sunday, April 12, 2015.** Go to <http://www.1dayforthehia.org/r un> to registrar.

*** Amps 4 Ohio is having an Amputee Support Group meeting at the Ross County YMCA on Tuesday, April 7, 2015.** For more information call 740-777-8180, Juanita Megel.

*** Ohio SBDC Boots to Business – Military Veteran & Spouse Entrepreneurship Class on Wednesday, April 22, 2015.** Location is at Wright State University.

*** 8th Annual Fisher House Ride on Saturday, April 25, 2015** Go to <http://www.1dayforthehia.org/r un> to registrar.





*** All Service Appreciation Night with the Blue Jackets April 10, 2015.** Go to

www.BlueJackets.com/Service to purchase special rate tickets only on-line.

*** The 2015 Class Induction Ceremony for The Ohio Military Hall of Fame on Friday, April 24, 2015 at the Atrium, Ohio Statehouse in Columbus from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

*** Pat's Run Shadow Run. Saturday, April 25, 2015.** At the Shadow Runs around the world through a partnership with the ASU Alumni Association Ohio's Club, you can Run/Walk and raise money to support Tilman Military Scholars. More information at military.com website.

*** The Joseph House 5K – Benefiting homeless Veterans at Joyce Park in Hamilton, Ohio on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

May

*** Deadline for applications for the 2015 Veterans Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego, California is May 1st, 2015.** Go to www.sumersportsclinic.va.gov for more information or for an application. It will be held September 13-18, 2015 at the VA San Diego Healthcare System.

*** Amps 4 Ohio is having an Amputee Support Group meeting at the Ross County YMCA on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.**

For more information call 740-777-8180, Juanita Megel.

*** Fallen 15K on Sunday, May 24, 2015 in Dublin, Ohio.** Go to <http://www.fallen15.org/a-15k-to-honor-15-fallen-soldiers-from-the-columbus-ohio-community/>.

*** Ride2Recovery May 23, 2015 at Columbus, Ohio.**

*** Kings Island free admission for Military personnel May 22-25, 2015.** All members of the military –active and retired –

*** Military Night w/The Ohio Machine Sunday, May 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Selby Stadium.** Contact Jon Harnett at 614-754-1973 or

jharnett@theohiomachine.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

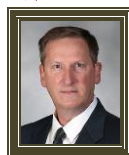
*** Memorial Day Candlelight Vigil on Monday, May 25, 2015, 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at the Ohio Veterans' Memorial Park in Clinton, Ohio.**

*** American Veterans Traveling Tribute – Hillsboro, Ohio May 27-31.**

***NOTE* Any of these events are subject to change or be cancelled so please check to make sure it is going on before attending.**



~Welcome~



Mick Oppy
Superintendent
Ohio Veterans Homes
November 17, 2014



~ In Memory~



November 8, 2014
SGT. Michael John Hentges Jr.

USA(AD), age 27
Cleveland, Ohio



Active duty service fatality.

November 24, 2014
Spc. Joseph "Joey" Riley
USA(AD), age 27
Grove City, Ohio



Killed in Afghanistan in Kabul when a bomb exploded near his military convoy.

December 5, 2014
Ernest Brace, Civilian, age 83
Klamath Falls, Ore.
Longest-serving American civilian prisoner of war in the Vietnam War.

December 9, 2014
Robert Wolfe, WWII Army Veteran age 93
Alexandria, VA

Three decades as the chief custodian and scholar of the millions of German documents seized during WWII and stored in the National Archives.





December 17, 2014
Lowell Steward, WWII
age 95
 Oxnard, Calif.



Pilot who flew over 100 combat missions and received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service with the famed Tuskegee Airman.

January 5, 2015
Clarence E. Huntley Jr., age 91
&
Joseph Shambrey, age 91
 Los Angeles, Calif.



Two members of the Tuskegee Airman who enlisted together in 1942 and passed away on the same day.

January 6, 2015
Bernard Jordan, WWII
age 90
 England



A veteran of WWII who slipped away from a nursing home in England last year to attend the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of D-Day in France.



January 24, 2015
Dennis O. Schaffner
age 74
 Defiance, Ohio



A Vietnam veteran who served and retired with more than 32 years with the Defiance County Veterans Service Commission.

January 24, 2015
Edward I. Arthur
age 79
 St. Augustine, Florida



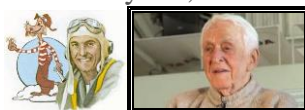
Entered the Army at the age of 13, a Vietnam Veteran and founder of the Ohio Military Hall of Fame who served as a Commissioner on the Fairfield County Veterans Service Commission.

January 28, 2015
Edward Saylor, Lt. Col., USAF
(ret) age 90
 Seattle, Washington



One of the last surviving Doolittle Raiders who flew a daring bombing mission over Japan just four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

January 29, 2015
Alex Vraciu, WWII
age 96
 Lafayette, CA



One of the most acclaimed WWII Navy fighter pilots.

January 28, 2015
Joe Langdell, Lt. Cmdr., USN
(ret) age 100



Yuba-Sutter, California

He watched from shore his ship the USS Arizona sink during the Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

February 12, 2015
Leon Kent, Cpt., USA
age 99
 California



A young Army lieutenant given the order that seemed impossible: stop a fast-moving column of German tanks from advancing during the Battle of the Bulge, awarded the Silver Star for valor under fire.

February 12, 2015
Dr. John P. Craven
age 90
 Hawaii

A former Navy Scientist whose innovations in ocean technology and exploration led to some of the nation's most celebrated feats of espionage.

February 17, 2015
Paul L. Green, Col., USAF
(ret) age 91
 California



A pioneering Tuskegee Airmen grew up in a Xenia, Ohio orphanage and rose through the ranks of the military to command Norton Air Force Base in California.



March 2015


- ~  3rd – Navy Reserves Birthday
- ~  4th – Mardi Gras
- ~  4th – Hug a GI Day
- ~  8th – Daylight Savings Time
- ~  13th – K-9 Veterans Day
- ~  15th – American Legion's 96th Birthday
- ~  17th – St. Patrick's Day
- ~  20th – First Day of Spring
- ~  22nd – Tuskegee Airmen Day
- ~  25th – National Medal of Honor Day
- ~  29th – Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day


April 2015 (Month of the Military Child)

- ~  1st – U.S. Air Force Academy Day
- ~  5th – Gold Star Wives Day & Easter
- ~  6th – Army Day

- ~  9th – National Former Prisoner of War Recognitions Day (POW)
- ~  12th – 19th – Holocaust Remembrance Week
- ~  14th – Air Force Reserve Birthday
- ~  15th – Income Taxes Due
- ~  15th – Holocaust Remembrance Day
- ~  22nd – Earth Day
- ~  23rd – Army Reserve Birthday
- ~  23rd – Army Reserves Birthday
- ~  25th – Arbor Day

May 2015 (National Military Appreciation Month)

- ~  1st – May Day/Silver Star Service Banner Day/Loyalty Day
- ~  5th – Cinco de Mayo
- ~  8th – V-E Day
- ~  8th – Military Spouses Day
- ~  9th – 17th – Armed Forces Week
- ~  10th – Mother's Day
- ~  13th – Children of Fallen Patriots Day
- ~  16th – Armed Forces Day
- ~  22nd – National Maritime Day

~  25th – Memorial Day



"A Memorial Day Poem"

By Debbie Bongiovanni

Today we honor all of you,
 Who served your country with
 pride,
 You risked your life for all of us,
 As you fought side by side.

Your strength and courage
 always showed,
 No matter what the danger
 might be,
 And you did all of this,
 So that we could be free.

Thank you for what you've done,
 And now we will all pray,
 For each and every one of you,
 On this Memorial Day.





FRANKLIN COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
280 EAST BROAD STREET, 1st FLOOR
COLUMBUS OH 43215

